Mr. Bernard Fensterwald
1707 H St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

2/5/77

Dear Bud,

Before going to bed last night I wrote Jim. After I finished the letter I added a note suggesting that he discuss the letter with you. I feel the decision must be his and that I cannot pre-empt.

For some time I have been wrestling with preferences about the House committee, trying to decide whether I would consider it more of a disaster for it not to be continued than for it to be reconstituted.

I am now without doubt. I suppose I never really was from early November on but just did not want to face it.

This committee is worse than no committee. I am certain of this. In the end its demise will be less of a disaster than what is now clearly its course and its predeterminations. The most that can be expected of it is an addition to the official mythologies along the wrong line advocated by the nuts, conspiracy theorizing. They have already ordained two lone assassinswith help for each. They have been explicit on this with each. With Ray there are added problems over this.

One I suggest you not ignore is your role in the creation of the committee.A desperate Ray and unscrupulous extremist counsel are quite capable of seeking to misuse this, a project in which they might anticipate some official help.

Another is the influencing of Ray by Mark Lane and others in favor of the committee, in favor of his testifying before it and in these and other matters by-passing Jim, whose obligation to Ray is mandatory.

There are other considerations but I do believe you should not ignore those that can relate to you. You are aware that I know more than I am saying.

Debunking everything this gang of pseudo-investigators has done is one-handed greasy kid stuff. Where it is real it is fraudulently represented as original and then in everyr case is out of context.

If they pursue the Mociana nonsense they will wind up tangling with George Meaney and the AFL-CIO. This is irrelevant in their mandate. It has been in my files for years. Their apparent source is a Paul Hoch story with PeterDale Scott, who makes them even more vulnerable now with his distribution by the nuts and self-seekers of the AIB. They have magnified this by seeking funds with the promise of influencing the committee through its staff. When I checked my files I found that I wrote Paul about this in confidence years ago, the confidentiality required by the vulnerability of my solid source.

Gonzalez has begged two months. In this time their possibilities are limited. My hunch is that they will do more of the same. In part this is because to do otherwise would be to undo themselves. In part it is because they know no better and deal with those who can do no better for them. The odds are that they will continue to sucker the black caucus and exploits its influence.

Whether or not I am correct in this I see no possibility of any real good, any real truth coming from this gang. I do see the real possibility of their burying truth deeper.

On the other hand I do not see an end to this committee as an end to all Congressional interest. There are standing committees with jurisdiction. There are possibilities outside the Congress, too. ... I look back with a certain amount of wonder. I, a non-lawyer, saw all the pitfalls, warned in advance about all, beginning the summer of 1975 when I was asked for a position paper, warned Sprague in particular 10/20/76, and these arrogant ones went ahead and made all the mistakes.. In terms of my own position I am content, if I am not with what this means for the country. Hastily,